

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE JOHN FOSTER, SHERIFF OF JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a dedicated public servant, the late John Foster, Sheriff of Johnson County, Kansas, who passed away on March 6th after a brief but valiant battle with pancreatic cancer.

John Foster, who died at age 67, began his career in the Johnson County Sheriff's Department in 1956, then took the post of assistant police chief in Fairway, Kansas, four years later. He became chief of police in Lenexa, Kansas, in 1971 and retired briefly twenty years later. A year later, in 1992, he returned to the Sheriff's Department as undersheriff. He was elected to a four-year term as Sheriff in 2000.

Doctors diagnosed Sheriff Foster's cancer in January. On February 21st, two weeks after they told him he might live from two weeks to a year, John told county officials that his disease was terminal. Undersheriff Frank Denning assumed Foster's duties on an acting basis the following week.

I got to know John Foster well during my twelve years as Johnson County District Attorney. John was my friend. He had a wonderful sense of humor. He always stayed close to the people he served, and was a profile in humane, progressive law enforcement at the local level. He mentored scores of younger law enforcement officers during his forty-six years of public service and leaves his home county, and its residents, a much better place as a result of the time he spent serving and fostering it.

Mr. Speaker, John Foster is survived by his wife, Karen Foster, five children—Margaret, Diane, Susie, Jan and Todd—and four grandchildren. I join with them in mourning this profound loss and place into the RECORD an article from the Kansas City Star that memorializes a dedicated and valuable law enforcement and public safety official.

[From the Kansas City (KS) Star, Mar. 7, 2003]

JOHNSON COUNTY SHERIFF DIES OF PANCREATIC CANCER

(By Richard Espinoza)

Johnson County Sheriff John Foster, who spent almost half a century in law enforcement, died at home early Thursday of pancreatic cancer.

Doctors diagnosed Foster, 67, in January. On Feb. 21, two weeks after doctors told Foster he might live two weeks to a year, he told county officials that the disease was terminal. Undersheriff Frank Denning assumed Foster's duties the following week.

Voters elected Foster, a Republican, to a four-year term in 2000. Now Johnson County Republicans must nominate a successor and send the person's name to Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, a Democrat.

He began his career at the Sheriff's Department in 1956, then took the post of assistant police chief in Fairway four years later. He became chief in Lenexa in 1971 and briefly retired in 1991. The following year, he returned to the Sheriff's Department as undersheriff.

Colleagues said Foster's main goal was keeping fellow law enforcement officers

happy and well-trained so they could take good care of their community.

"He loved officers," Fairway Police Chief Kevin Cavanaugh said. "He loved what they stood for and what they represent. He did everything in his power to teach people and be an example of how to put their best foot forward in the best possible way."

Foster helped the Sheriff's Department win raises to reduce the number of deputies who left for better-paying jobs, switched to better-looking uniforms and constantly trained a new generation of law-enforcement leaders.

"He'd accomplished a lot, but I know he wasn't done," Johnson County District Attorney Paul Morrison said.

In Topeka, the Kansas House approved a resolution Thursday honoring Foster for his nearly 50 years of public service in law enforcement. A copy will be given to his family. It was sponsored by House members from Johnson County.

Sen. Karin Brownlee, an Olathe Republican, said a similar resolution would be introduced in the Senate next week.

Johnson County Commission Chairwoman Annabeth Surbaugh issued a statement praising Foster's encouragement and support.

"The county has lost a great man," Surbaugh wrote, "a man whose strong and steady step never wavered, a man whose dedication and commitment to this community was unshakable, a man whose wisdom and guidance were a source of inspiration and comfort to so many."

Many law officers visited Foster at home during his last days to tell him how he had encouraged them in their careers.

Lenexa Police Chief Ellen Hanson, whom Foster hired in 1975, recalled the way he helped people succeed.

"He was a confidence builder, but not falsely," Hanson said. "I think he had a great ability to see people's strengths and build on them."

Colleagues remembered his love for teaching, and several said he passed on some piece of wisdom in nearly every conversation.

"Every time I spoke to him," Cavanaugh said, "whether it was something to do with law enforcement or on a personal level, I always learned something. It seemed as if he always wanted to teach."

Some of it was serious, like the sharp distinction he drew between mistakes of the head—those that are rectified easily—and mistakes of the heart, which show a troubling lack of ethics.

Other times he couched a lesson in humorous "Fosterisms," like the warning he frequently issued on what he called the "three Bs of booze, broods and bills."

"The one thing that can cause you trouble if you don't handle them correctly is that," Hanson quoted Foster. "If you handle those things with honesty and integrity, you're not going to have a problem."

Foster was a life member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Kansas City Metropolitan Chiefs and Sheriffs Association. He was a member of the Kansas Association of Police Chiefs, the Johnson County Chiefs and Sheriffs Association and the Kansas Sheriffs Association.

Foster taught as an adjunct instructor at Johnson County Community College, and he was a graduate of the FBI National Academy.

He lived in Johnson County all his life. He attended Hickory Grove Grade School in Shawnee and Shawnee Mission Rural High School, now Shawnee Mission North. He earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and a master's in administration of justice, both from Wichita State University.

He was a member and past president of the Lenexa Rotary Club.

Foster is survived by his wife, Karen M. Foster; five children, Margaret, Diane, Susie, Jan and Todd; and four granddaughters.

Instead of flowers, Foster's family suggests donations to a scholarship fund for law-enforcement families that they plan to establish soon.

The family was making funeral plans Thursday.

OUR PATRIOT SAILORS: HONORING CAPTAIN JAMES PARESE

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, we wake up every morning to our newspapers filled with stories of possible war, of tragic loss of our astronauts, of heightened warnings of terrorist attacks and of dangerous international dictators. In all, Americans are finding it a difficult time to be confronted every day with these tragedies, uncertainties and fears.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, during times like these, it is all the more vital to our national spirit to tell Americans about uplifting and comforting stories. We need to remind ourselves of our national qualities for which we are so unique—patriotism, courage and generosity for our fellow man.

The story I tell you today, you will not have read about in your local paper, nor watched on TV, because this is the story of an unsung hero, a man who showed unwavering bravery during the terrorist attacks in New York on September 11, 2001.

I rise today to honor one of my constituents, James Parese, who is the Captain of the Staten Island Ferry, "Samuel I Newhouse". On that terrible morning on September 11, Captain Parese was one of the countless private citizens on maritime vessels around Manhattan who immediately responded to an emergency message. Cackling across marine radios in New York's harbor—the Coast Guard summoned all boats and their crews to abandon their usual duties and respond to extraordinary needs in the New York waterways.

Captain Parese explains that day himself best when he said, quote, The subways were down, and they closed the bridges. We were basically the only way out. Us and the smaller ferries, the police boats and the tugs. I couldn't believe the amount of tugs; there were a sea of tugboats coming from Staten Island heading for Manhattan.

Since September 11th, we have heard so many human stories of tragedy, heroism, loss and miracles. We've heard the brave deeds of the New York firefighters and police officers. We will forever owe them our deepest gratitude.

And today we honor one of America's maritime heroes—one of hundreds of private men and women who selflessly and quietly answered the call from the Coast Guard for "all available boats". The miraculous rescue and response effort by water has also permanently altered our nation's official approach to defending our homeland security along our coastline.

The South Street Seaport Museum in New York City put together an exhibit to bring to light the historic maritime evacuation of Manhattan on September 11. I learned of these

sailors from the book, *All Available Boats*. The book was put together and edited by Dr. Mike Magee, a doctor who happened to see the museum exhibit and felt strongly that these heroic stories deserved to be heard by the American people.

Hundreds of non-military ship captains of all kinds of vessels—from ferries like Captain Parese to tugboats and from private vessels to even historic ships—answered the Coast Guard's call and sailed directly into Ground Zero.

In the end, they evacuated over 300,000 people from Manhattan. It was the largest maritime evacuation since the battle of Dunkirk in 1940. Remarkable.

After hearing the radio call on September 11, Captain Parese unloaded his ferry's passengers back onto Staten Island, turned around and steered his ferry directly into the Staten Island Ferry Loading Dock on Manhattan. There, thousands of people were pouring onto his boat to find a way to escape the terrorism on the island. People were literally jumping off the docks to try to hit the ferry's decks. One man said he was, quote, jumping for my life.

Captain Parese's ferry, already covered in ash, began to fill with smoke. Despite his eyes and lungs burning from the smoke, Parese stayed and loaded over 6,000 scared and desperate passengers onto his ferry. Because of the thick smoke, he was forced to use radar to steer the boat southbound. On reaching Staten Island, Parese unloaded his passengers. He immediately then turned his empty ferry around and headed straight back to Manhattan.

Parese then rejoined the other ships' captains in their massive evacuation of Manhattan. Yet, during one of the most frightening days in our nation's history, we now have learned that our fellow citizens were not just rescued by these boats, they were shown kindness and comfort by these captains and their crewmates.

Every man, woman and child who Captain Parese rescued from Manhattan is grateful to him for giving them an escape route, for his kind spirit and for his dedication to duty.

On a different Staten Island Ferry than Parese's that day—was a boy, Tim Steto, a student at the Leadership High School in Manhattan. Tim and some other students caught the very last ferry from Battery City Park before it closed.

After stumbling through the streets around Ground Zero in terror and confusion, Tim said that once the ferry took off from Manhattan—quote—there was a visible difference in the air quality. We looked back at this horrible scene then looked forward to see this clear, beautiful view of Staten Island. No clouds or smoke. And this young high school student said that—quote—the thought of being taken to safety kept me calm.

After evacuating those three hundred thousand people from the Manhattan island, Parese and the other captains returned again to Ground Zero to volunteer to help with other vital tasks. They pumped water from the harbor to feed the fire hoses and brought in needed supplies.

Also, with the bridges and tunnels closed, these boats became the necessary transportation for bringing firefighters, police and other emergency workers to Ground Zero from New Jersey and beyond.

In one account after another of these stories, the captains and their shipmates worked without break, without fear and without instructions.

September 11, 2001 was a day when average American men and women became heroes for their fellow Americans and for our nation. Those enemies of freedom around the world have always underestimated the determination, bravery, love of country and freedom of the American people.

Captain Parese and the other brave patriot sailors that day are the finest example that the evil enemies of freedom can tear down our walls and tragically kill our citizens, but they will never quench the American spirit.

I admire the bravery of my constituent, James Parese, as much as I admire his humility. He takes no special credit for his brave and tireless actions that day. He very simply says that—quote “everyone pretty much did what they had to do”.

James Parese, thank you from all of us in the United States House of Representatives for your brave and heroic acts that will never be forgotten by the thousands of people you brought to safety on September 11. And thank you for continuing to go out every day to ferry the Staten Island citizens to Manhattan for work.

Finally, we recognize and applaud all the hundreds of patriot sailors that tragic day who fearlessly answered our Coast Guard's call for “all available boats”. Their actions make all of us proud to be Americans and we salute their courage.

God bless these unsung heroes and God always bless this great freedom-loving nation of the United States of America.

ESTABLISH FEDERAL RENEWABLE ENERGY PORTFOLIO STANDARDS FOR CERTAIN RETAIL ELECTRIC UTILITIES

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, along with my cousin and colleague, Representative MARK UDALL of Colorado, I am today introducing legislation that amends title VI of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to establish Federal renewable energy portfolio standard, RPS, for certain retail electric utilities.

I would like to thank Representatives BERMAN, CARDIN, HINCHEY, LEACH, GEORGE MILLER, OWENS, PALLONE, TIERNEY, and especially Representative HENRY WAXMAN who share the vision that we in Congress can develop a national energy policy that is founded on two key principles: renewable energy and energy efficiency. I am especially proud that this is a bipartisan effort.

Mr. Speaker there are some who say that a long-term sustainable energy plan is impossible. Or that renewable energy and energy efficiency are pipe dreams, and that the U.S. will never be able to break its reliance on traditional energy sources like oil and coal. I disagree.

Now, in the post-September 11th world, and as we are on the brink of war with Iraq, the renewed conflict in the Middle East shows us

that we cannot continue to rely on imported oil from that region. When my father, Stewart Udall, was Secretary of the Interior, the U.S. imported 20 percent of its oil. My father argued that we shouldn't import more than 20 percent of our oil on national security grounds. Today, we import 53 percent of our oil, 47 percent of which comes from OPEC countries; by 2020, the United States will import 62 percent of its oil unless we act to change the way we produce energy.

Even more frightening, world production is expected to peak some time in the next few decades; some even say as early as 2007. That means that as energy demand increases more and more rapidly, the world's oil supply will be proportionally diminished.

While energy production has brought tremendous prosperity and allowed us to grow our economy at unprecedented rates, non-renewable forms of energy are responsible for many of the greatest environmental threats to America's well-being.

Consider this, less than 2 percent of this nation's electricity is generated by non-traditional sources of power such as wind, solar, and geothermal energy. During the period from 1973–1991, smart investments were made to develop new technologies that made our energy use more efficient without affecting economic output. These investments curbed the projected growth rates of energy use in the United States by 18 percent from what they would have been without the investments.

Unfortunately, the U.S. spends only one half of 1 percent of its energy bill on research and development. 60 percent of that money is wasted on the country's failed experiment in nuclear energy. Less than 1/3 of the nation's tiny research and development budget is spent on renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies.

Mr. Speaker, I am particularly interested in Renewable Portfolio Standards, RPS, which I believe paves the road for the development and investment in clean energy technologies and local economic development. RPS, in my mind, clearly serves as model for tomorrow's small and medium businesses to draw a profit from their own environmental responsibility.

During the 107th Congress, in the Senate version of H.R. 4, there was a provision, which proposed that retail electricity suppliers—except for municipal and cooperative utilities—be required to obtain a minimum percentage of their power production from a portfolio of new renewable energy resources. The minimum energy target or “standard” would start at 1 percent in 2005, rise at a rate of about 1.2 percent every two years, and peak at 10 percent in 2019.

I applaud the Senate for including an RPS provision in the Energy bill, which the House failed to include in our energy package. However, I believe that we are capable of going further than the 10 percent peak in 2020 and believe we should set the standard higher to around 20 percent. As I mentioned earlier, less than 2 percent of this nation's electricity is generated by non-traditional sources of power such as wind, solar, geothermal, etc.

Why is this legislation so important now Mr. Speaker? It's important because the Department of Energy's total energy efficiency and renewable energy budget would remain essentially unchanged at \$1.3 billion for fiscal 2004. For example, Biomass and biorefinery systems would see the biggest cut, down 19